



## Arlington Tree Committee

**Date:** *Wednesday, February 12, 2020*

**Time:** *7:30pm*

**Location:** *Lyons Hearing Room, Arlington Town Hall*

**Members:** *Mary Ellen Aronow (Co-Chairperson), Eliza Burden (Co-Chairperson), Steven Moore (Minutes), Keith Schnebly, Susan Stamps, Ed Trembly, and Brian Turnbaugh; Tim Lecuivre (Tree Warden)*

**Guests:** *Gary Goldsmith, Beth Melofchik, and JoAnn Preston*

### Meeting Minutes

1. Approved January Meeting Minutes (Steve moved; Keith seconded; unanimously approved as amended).
2. Design and Building Initiatives in Town with Potential Impact to Trees
  - a. Broadway Plaza Redesign (DPW)
    - i. Original removal plan has been modified to retain more existing trees, as a result of a meeting last month with multiple DPW / Town Manager / Planning Dept. officials and Eliza; planning continues.
    - ii. Trevor Smith, a water mitigation specialist, was also at the meeting; he is perhaps a future resource for the ATC.
    - iii. Beth offered comments and concerns about the project; JoAnne suggested some project additions, which Tim will follow up with the DPW.
  - b. Arlington High School Rebuild
    - i. 11 trees along Mass. Ave will be preserved; 45 healthy shade trees to be removed beyond those.
    - ii. Tree Hearing for this group removal will be on February 26, 2020.
    - iii. The eventual partial replanting of this tree stand is currently part of the AHS replacement plan, although the funding source is unclear.
    - iv. Contractor has in hand tree protection measures during demolition/construction provided by ATC.
  - c. North Union St. Playground
    - i. Planning is almost complete; Tim has only been engaged peripherally.
    - ii. Susan to follow-up on process with Phil (ATC), who has been fully involved.
  - d. Zoning
    - i. ARB is not planning to re-address 2019 zoning regulation rewrite in the 2020 Town Meeting.
    - ii. A series of citizen-sponsored articles are in the 2020 Town Warrant which mimic much of what was unsuccessfully proposed last year.
3. Community Tree Canopy Program Spring 2020
  - a. Nursery Choice and Plan
    - i. A selection of trees is being proposed by New England Nurseries for the Spring planting, including a small and large species.
    - ii. ATC would like to get somewhat more mature trees this time around, if affordable; still researching alternatives.
4. DPW Tree Dept/Tree Warden Update
  - a. Tree hearing(s)
    - i. AHS -- February 26, 2020.
    - ii. Whittemore Park Hearing Appeal by the Planning Dept. to Select Board is uncertain.
  - b. Tree Bylaw activity

- i. 34 Governor Rd.; large addition for which a Tree Plan was submitted, fee for a tree removal was paid, and protection plan for a retained tree was identified; all of steps outlined in the Bylaw and regulations have been followed to date.
  - ii. If Tree Plans are submitted which do not meet Tree Bylaw requirements, Tim requires redoing.
- c. Building Around Trees info packet
  - i. 'Building Around Trees' handouts available at Building Dept.; they are beginning to be utilized, but need to be further circulated with contractors performing Town construction projects and roadwork.
  - ii. Tim will inquire about possible posting on the Town website.
- d. Spring 2020 DPW tree planting
  - i. Order placed with Schictel Nurseries in February.
  - ii. 150 total for Spring bare-root street tree planting: 30 large, 60 medium, and 60 small, including seedless Horse Chestnut.
  - iii. 18 additional ball & burlap trees, of which 15 will go into Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, including Sweetgum.
- e. Tree Inventory map tree location adjustments are still in-process, but progress is slow; Gary has been helping with this; Tree Zone 1 is completed.
- f. ATC letter to DPW on funding for an additional watering truck and equipment went out in February; Phil and Mara plan to meet with Mike R
- g. Tree trimming and maintenance work to be performed on the Minuteman Bikeway this March, starting at the Lexington line and moving east.
- h. Tree Dept. trimming backlog has been eliminated.
- i. Tree Management Plan-driven pruning work in town, starting in Tree Zone 5, to commence in March; poor condition Ash trees (potential EAB hosts) will be taken down first.
- j. EAB Management Program draft contract almost complete; to be complete in early March; JoAnne offered to recirculate her EAB Awareness article/information in mid-April.
- k. Negotiation with National Grid on compensation for gas-leak street tree damage is still in-process.
- 5. Publicity and Community Outreach
  - a. ATC website links review/update -- Steve began this task, and it is ongoing.
  - b. ACMI; Keith and Eliza will work on tree promo piece related to Community Tree Canopy program.
  - c. Zoning issues and Stormwater grants -- nothing new.
  - d. ATC Annual Report submitted by Eliza on January 15, for inclusion with DPW Annual Report.
  - e. Discussion about whether to notify neighbors, if possible, when a street tree has to come down due to safety/health reasons.
- 6. New Business
  - a. Eco-Fest is scheduled for March 21 at Arlington Town Hall; the theme is 'Community Resilience in the Climate Change Era' this year.
  - b. Town Day booth application has been received.

**Adjourned:** 9:18pm

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, March 11